

[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

ment thereto, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil has drafted the Jenmi-Kudiyan Regulation Amendment Bill and when he proposes to introduce the same into the Council?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: The attention of the member is invited to the answer furnished to part (e) of question No. 126.

Jenmi-Kudiyan Regulation.

128. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state why the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation Amendment Bill is not yet introduced into the Council?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: The member is referred to the answer given to part (e) of question No. 126.

Report of Mr. Gomatinayakam Pillai, District Superintendent of Police, about Excise Officers.

129. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the report submitted to the Government by Mr. Gomatinayakam Pillai, District Superintendent of Police, Kottayam, about the corruption of Excise Officers and the agents of the toddy contractor Mr. Nadar in the Arukutty Circle?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: There is no such report.

Revised Arms Rules.

130. THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: (1) Will the Government be pleased to say (i) what led them to promulgate the revised Travancore Arms Rules, dated the 15th July, 1922, and (ii) whether there was any special reason for cancelling the exemptions previously in force, in favour of--

(a) cultivators of hilly tracts like Todupuzha and Kunnathnad;

(b) landholders who pay a tax of Rs. 100 and above; and

(c) members of the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Municipal Councils, and other accredited representatives of the people?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to make a specific provision for granting licenses for longer periods and for taking licenses before the expiry of the periods covered by the licenses issued?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (1) (a), (b) and (c) In revising the rules, Government were guided by the policy laid down by the Government of India recently as the result of recommendations submitted by a mixed committee of officials and non-officials appointed by them. In view of their responsibility for the maintenance of order and tranquillity, the Government are bound to take into account the dangerous effect

of an unrestricted and unascertainable dissemination of fire-arms throughout the country; and the object of the revised Rules is not so much to impose additional restrictions as to enable the Government to obtain a tolerably correct idea of the number and description of the fire-arms in the country.

In regard to cultivators in the hilly tracts and cultivators generally, the revised Rules, far from imposing additional restrictions, have done away with existing restrictions and have provided for the issue of licenses in such cases free of all fee. (*Vide* Rule 28 of the revised Rules and Form No. 13 appended to them.)

(2) Rule 26 of the revised Rules provides for the grant, at a time, of licenses extending to three years, and it is open to the holders of these licenses to apply for their renewal sufficiently in advance with a view to obtain fresh licenses before the expiry of the old ones.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Are Government aware of the fact that cultivators in the hilly tracts are suffering much as they have not got their licenses although it is now the month of Vrischikam and that heavy damages are being done to crops by wild beasts in consequence?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Government have no information.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI: Have Government received any representation or petition from the people of Todupuzha and Kunnatnad and other hilly tracts in the matter?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI. I claim notice.

Revised Arms Rules and Cultivation near Reserved Forests.

131. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the damage done to cultivation, as a result of the ravages of wild animals, suffered by people living close to forests?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any special reasons for taking away from the people of these localities the privilege of keeping and using fire-arms, by the introduction of the Rules dated the 31st Mithunam, 1097?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the troubles caused by the Police to the cultivators living close to the forests in respect of possessing fire-arms, on account of the necessity to apply for licenses to possess them?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to appoint a special officer to go on circuit to the *pakuthies* close to the forests and give licenses, in case Government do not propose to revise the Rules?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (a) & (b) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 130.

(c) & (d) The answer is in the negative.